

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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1. (currently amended): A connection managing method of a digital interface for performing a connection management for a plurality of devices connected by a digital interface, the plurality devices including operation modes having a normal mode for performing a usual operation prescribed in a digital interface standard and a private mode for performing an operation which selectively controls an external device, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing the private mode as an operation mode in a first arbitrary device for a digital connection between the first arbitrary device and a second arbitrary device;

(b) the first device identifying devices having a right to access related registers to store in itself information relating to the identified devices, wherein the devices having a right to access the related registers are allowed access to the digital connection between the first arbitrary device and the second arbitrary device;

(c) the first device determining whether there is a request for access to the related registers by a third-party device;

(d) determining whether the third-party device is included in the previously stored devices if there is a request;

(e) the first device accepting the request of the third-party device if the third-party device is determined to be included in the devices stored in the step (d); and

(f) the first device returning an error code to the third-party device, which indicates that the first device cannot accept the request, if the third-party device is not determined to be included in the devices stored in the step (d).

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the establishment of the operation mode is made on the basis of the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug, and in the step (a) a private mode is established in the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:  
(a-1) sending a request indicating that a bit stream output from the first device and display on the second device intends to be managed privately to the second device; and  
(a-2) the second device using a specific command to relay the request to the first device.

Claims 6-8 (canceled).

9. (previously presented): The method of any of claims 1, 2 and 5, wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE 1394 standard.